

## **Will the Commission's Grant Programs Change for 2001-03 Biennium?**

We've been asked many questions about possible changes in our grants programs for the 2001-03 Biennium. These questions were prompted mainly by the recent audit of three Commission grant programs by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC).

At their March 15, 2001 meeting, Commission members heard details of the audit from JLARC staff, as well as their recommendations. After discussing the audit and recommendations, Commission members agreed that certain changes in our grant programs could be made to increase their effectiveness and accountability. However, they weren't ready to adopt any broad changes right away. The Commission members did agree to carefully discern appropriate changes in grant programs over the course of the next six to nine months. This process will be carried out by grants staff interviewing individual Commission members, as well as WACD Officers and Directors. The interview material will be based on the JLARC investment practices model and how it applies to our grant programs.

Will there be any changes right away? No. For the first year of the new biennium (July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002) there will be no JLARC-related changes in Commission grant programs.

However, because the Commission may make changes in grants policy and those changes would become effective in the second year of the biennium, your new Implementation Grants will be written only for the first year. These grants will be either amended or rewritten for the second year based on policy changes adopted by the Commission.

Also, we are not sending out applications for Competitive Grants at this time. Competitive applications will be sent to you after the Commission decides if this program will be changed.

Other Commission grant programs, including the Dairy Nutrient Management Grants; CREP Grants; Professional Engineering Grants; Puget Sound Grants; Limiting Factor Analysis Grants; and Basic Funding will all be continued as in the past, assuming the Commission receives appropriations for them.

If you have any questions, feel free to call Bob Bottman (360-407-6204) or Cheryl Witt (360-407-6205).